



News from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mayor

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Crime Victim Advocates Honored This Friday

The Shelby County Crime Victims Center will host a reception this Friday evening to honor the winners of the 2014 *Crime Victims' Rights Awards*. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. at *A Memphis Thing Gallery*, 506 S. Main Street.

Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., will speak at 6:00 p.m. **"We commend these community servants for their commitment and dedication to assist crime victims,"** said Mayor Luttrell.

This year's Crime Victims' Rights Award winners are:

Victim Services Professional of the Year- Melissa Farrar, Director of Domestic Violence Services, Exchange Club Family Center

Ms. Farrar has been a passionate advocate for victims of domestic violence in Shelby County for the past decade. She's a member of the Memphis and Shelby County Domestic and Sexual Violence Council and worked tirelessly to launch the Family Safety Center at 1750 Madison Avenue.

Criminal Justice Professional of the Year- Sgt. Ouita Knowlton, Memphis Police Department Sex Crimes DNA Unit

Sgt. Knowlton, an investigator with the Memphis Police Sex Crimes Bureau since 2012, manages a recent \$500,000 grant from the State of Tennessee to ensure rape kits are tested. Her support to sexual assault victims, especially those involved in cases several years old, has given assurance that perpetrators will be prosecuted if DNA evidence is obtained.

Victim Advocate of the Year- Rosiland Moore, Secretary, FFUN (Freedom from Unnecessary Negatives)

Ms. Moore is the key organizer for "FFUN Stop the Killing Rallies" Those events generate awareness about the effects of violence. Her passion is driven by the murder of her stepson many years ago. She works closely with the Shelby County Crime Victims Center Homicide Response Program and other local agencies that serve crime victims.

City of Memphis Mayor A C Wharton, Jr., Shelby County Sheriff Bill Oldham, Shelby County District Attorney Amy Weirich and US Attorney Edward Stanton, III are also co-sponsors of this year's awards reception.

Also during Friday evening's event, there will be a photographic display of crime victims who have conquered the stigma of sexual assault. *Memphis Supports Project Unbreakable* will feature pictures of local survivors of sexual assaults holding messages that contain quotes from their assailants, families, friends and others about their assault.

For additional information, contact Anna Whalley, Administrator of the Shelby County Crime Victims Center at **(901) 222-3952**.

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